



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3/2 (b) Brown
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In re application of: Slater

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Serial No.: 09/441,683

Group No.: 2877

Filed: Nov. 16, 1999

Examiner: Zandra Smith

For: OPTICAL PROBE WITH SAMPLING WINDOW CLEANING CONFIGURATION

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 24, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace current claim 1 with the following:

1. (Amended) An optical probe with a self-cleaning sampling window, comprising:
a probe body having a window with a surface oriented toward a sample under investigation;
a sampling beam of light carrying wavelengths representative of the sample into the probe body through the window for analysis;
a conduit carrying a fluid to the surface of the window oriented toward the sample;
a structure operative to flood the window with the fluid, the structure including an aperture through which the sampling wavelengths pass; and
wherein at least a portion of the fluid passes through the aperture to ensure that the sample under investigation does not reach the window.